

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated March 22, 2006 and the references cited therein. In response, applicant has amended claim 14 to improve its clarity. Claims 14-28 remain pending in the application. Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,660,950 ("Fonseca"). Additionally, dependent claims 15-22, 27 and 28 stand rejected as either anticipated by Fonseca or under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of Fonseca. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is not well taken as there are significant differences between what is disclosed in Fonseca and the claimed invention.

A key feature of the present invention is that it can automatically disconnect a connection to the internet upon shutdown of one of the internal supply voltages of the computer. This prevents a computer from being started remotely through the internet when it is in a stand-by mode or comparable state, e.g. at night, and being used to run unwanted programs. In particular, the claimed invention as recited in claim 14 provides a switching arrangement for disconnecting a communications line connecting a computer to a remote data source including a control connector at a switching device that is connectable with a computer supply voltage and is operable to bring the switching device into a first switching state (i.e., where a data connection exists) when the supply voltage is present and into a second switching state (i.e., where the data connection is interrupted) when the supply voltage is absent. This arrangement eliminates the need for a user to manually disconnect the computer from the internet as the disconnection is carried out automatically upon shut down of the computer or switching of the computer into a stand-by mode (as some of the voltages are shut-down).

In sharp contrast, all of the embodiments disclosed in Fonseca require a manual or distinct action by the user to disconnect the computer from the internet. This action is either a manual shift of the socket-plug combination (the Figs. 1-9 embodiment), actuation of a slider switch (the Fig. 11 embodiment) or the input of a "disconnect" software command (the Fig. 20 embodiment, described beginning at col. 5, line 60). No automatic disconnection is


contemplated. In the Office Action, the Examiner specifically references the element denoted by reference number 1102 in Fig. 11 of Fonseca. While Fonseca describes this as a data transfer relay 1102, applicant submits that it would be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the arrangement shown in Fig. 11 of Fonseca is nothing more than a common slider switch and not a remotely controlled relay.

Fonseca discloses that the element 1102 has an attached slider switch 1103 (see Fig. 11). Moreover, Fonseca discloses that the element 1102 has “6 or more individual switches which simultaneously connect and disconnect by activation of the slider switch 1103.” (See col. 4, lines 15-18.) Further, Fonseca does not disclose any separate electrical connection between its switch box and the computer. Thus, Fonseca cannot be considered to teach that element 1102 is monitoring a supply voltage of the computer, let alone automatically disconnecting an internet connection based on the presence or absence of that supply voltage. Rather, Fonseca only discloses that element 1103 operates via manual activation of the slider switch 1103. Accordingly, the element 1102 cannot be considered the claimed “control connector”. Fonseca does not even contemplate automatic disconnection and thus cannot be considered to suggest using the internal supply voltages of a computer as a control signal for a switching arrangement that can disconnect the computer from the internet as in applicant’s invention. Thus, independent claim 1 is allowable over Fonseca. Dependent claims 15-28 are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with independent claim 14.

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the

prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 21, 2006